

LIPARIDAE Gill, 1861 by reason of homonymy within the family-group. It would seem undesirable that a family-group name which was little used and which can never be used again should be regarded as threatening a generally accepted but junior homonym [for a comment on homonymous family names when one is based on a suppressed generic name see BZN 47: 167]. In Coleoptera, there is a junior objective synonym (unnecessary replacement name) of *Liparus*, i.e. *Molytes* Schoenherr, 1823, on which was based 'MOLYTIDES' Schoenherr, 1823 (col. 1143). Although *Molytes* itself has not been used, MOLYTINAE Schoenherr, 1823 has had limited recent use at subfamily or tribe rank (Kuschel, 1987; Zherichin, 1987); this was because *Liparus* is classified within the well-known HYLOBIINAE W. Kirby, 1837, the name of which is junior to MOLYTINAE. There is no doubt a case for conserving HYLOBIINAE.

Drs Korotyaev and Nartshuk (see above) have suggested that the dipteran family-group name LIPARINI Nartshuk, 1987 could be emended to LIPARAINI if this were necessary to avoid homonymy.

Dr Vogt's application (BZN 45: 130–131) was concerned solely to protect the spelling of the fish family name LIPARIDAE Gill, 1861. According to Professor Cameron this original form is the correct spelling: since it is in wide use and since no confusion is likely between it and the insect family-group names there is little reason to alter its spelling. Because there has been controversy over the spelling during the past decade it is appropriate to ask the Commission to place LIPARIDAE Gill, 1861 on the Official List of Generic Names, as Dr Vogt has done. There is clearly a need to consider the (junior) family-group names based on *Liparus* and *Lipara* (and the availability of LIPARINI Boisduval), but I suggest that this can be done in due course without adding delay to Dr Vogt's case.

Additional references

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- Kuschel, G. 1987. The subfamily Molytinae (Coleoptera, Curculionidae): general notes and description of new taxa from New Zealand and Chile. *New Zealand Entomologist*, 9: 11–29.
- Pierce, W.D. 1919. Contributions to our knowledge of the weevils of the superfamily Curculionoidea. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington*, 21: 21–36.
- Schoenherr, C.J. 1823. Tabula synoptica familiae Curculionidum. Vorbericht über die Monographie derselben. *Isis* (von Oken), Jena, 1823: col. 1132–1146.
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Comment on the proposed precedence of *Rana sphenocephala* Cope, 1886 (Amphibia, Anura) over *R. utricularius* Harlan, 1826
(Case 2141; see BZN 47: 283–285)

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I wholeheartedly support the suggested course of action, and I hope this matter can be resolved quickly. The name *Rana sphenocephala* should be given precedence over

Rana utricularius in the interest of stability; *sphenocephala* has been used consistently for the last century whereas *utricularius* was totally obscure. I agree that not suppressing *utricularius* is a good idea, in case future work shows support for the division within *sphenocephala* suggested by Pace. However, no such division is currently recognized. It is important to preserve the name *Rana sphenocephala* for the southern leopard frog, one of the most common frogs of the southeastern United States. I hope action by the Commission will be rapid so as to prevent further confusion.